

IN THE CLAIMS

There are no amendments to the claims, a listing of which is provided herein for the convenience of the Examiner.

1. (Original) An aqueous pigment paste free from binders and grinding resins, comprising based on its overall amount
 - (A) from 15 to 25% by weight of at least one mica pigment,
 - (B) from 0.45 to 0.75% by weight of at least one nonassociative thickener comprising at least one methacrylate copolymer based on C₁-C₆ alkyl (meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid,
 - (C) from 0.1 to 0.4% by weight of at least one organic amine,
 - (D) from 0.1 to 12% by weight of at least one nonionic surfactant, and
 - (E) at least 50% by weight of water.
2. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the at least one mica pigment (A) is present in an amount from 18 to 23% by weight.
3. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the at least one nonassociative thickener (B) is present in an amount from 0.5 to 0.7% by weight.
4. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the thickener (B) contains in copolymerized form at least two different C₁-C₆ alkyl (meth)acrylate monomers.
5. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the thickener (B), based on its overall amount, contains from 40 to 60% by weight of methacrylic acid in copolymerized form.
6. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the organic amine (C) comprises a tertiary amine.

7. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 6, wherein the tertiary amine comprises a hydroxylalkylamine.
8. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 7, wherein the hydroxylalkylamine is dimethylethanolamine.
9. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the organic amine (C) is present in an amount of from 0.2 to 0.3% by weight.
10. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the nonionic surfactant (D) is present in an amount of from 0.5 to 10% by weight.
11. (Previously Presented) The paste of claim 1, wherein the water is present in an amount that is at least 55% by weight.
12. (Previously Presented) An aqueous coating material comprising the aqueous pigment paste of claim 1, wherein the aqueous coating material is one of an aqueous effect coating material or a color and effect, coating material.
13. (Previously Presented) The coating material of claim 12, wherein the aqueous coating material is an aqueous basecoat material.
14. (Previously Presented) The coating material of claim 12, wherein the aqueous coating material can produce a multicoat effect, or color and effect, paint system.

15. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing an aqueous effect or color and effect coating material by mixing the at least one pigment paste of claim 1 with at least one aqueous mixing varnish comprising at least one water-soluble and/or -dispersible binder in an amount such that the resulting aqueous effect or color and effect coating material comprises based on its overall amount
 - from 2 to 6% by weight of at least one mica pigment (A),
 - from 0.1 to 2% by weight of at least one nonassociative thickener (B) comprising at least one methacrylate copolymer based on C₁-C₆ alkyl (meth)acrylate and (meth)acrylic acid, and
 - from 0.02 to 2.4% by weight of at least one nonionic surfactant (D), andhomogenizing the resulting mixture.
16. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 15, wherein the binder is at least one of an addition (co)polymer of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer, a polyaddition resin, and/or a polycondensation resin, wherein the addition (co)polymer is at least one of a random (co)polymer, an alternating (co)polymer, and a block (co)polymer, and wherein the addition (co)polymer is at least one of linear, branched, and comb.
17. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 16, wherein the addition (co)polymer of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer is at least one of a (meth)acrylate (co)polymer and/or a partially hydrolyzed polyvinyl ester, and the polyaddition resin and/or polycondensation resin is at least one of a polyester, an alkyd, a polyurethane, a polylactones, a polycarbonate, a polyether, an epoxy resin-amine adduct, a polyurea, a polyamide, a polyimide, a polyester-polyurethane, a polyether-polyurethane, and/or polyester-polyether-polyurethane.